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German-English Translator

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1763 October

[symbol for Saturday] d. 8.ten

Heute früh wurden wir hurprenirt[?]<sup>1</sup>, da sie den Br. Seb. Graf, der am [symbol for Thursday]. Abends in Reading heimgegangen war, Todt im Sarge her brachten. Es wurden sogleich, weil der Körper schon auslief, Anstalten gemacht, Ihn zu begraben. Ich berichtete diesen Vorgang nach Lititz u. von daher kamen die Brüder Haller u. Horn; Joh. Klein u. Jac: Meyer, u. wohnten dem Leich-Begängniß bey, welches Nachmittags um 3 Uhr war, unter einer großen Menge Begleiter, auf unsern Gottes-Acker bey Br. Rasmusers Liturgy u. nachherigen Predig in der Kirche an ein großes Auditorium von etl. hundert Menschen; sie hatten nicht alle Plaz u. musten haußen<sup>2</sup> bleiben, andern gingen nach Hause. Mein Text war aus 1 Theß: 4,13. Unter den Zuhörern war eine große Attention. Ich las ein von kurzen Aufsatz seines Lebens-Laufs:

Unser seliger Bruder, Sebastian Graf war geboren zu Offenheim in Anspachischen d. 7 Jan. 1711 u. in der lutherischen Religion erzogen. Im Jahr 1730 kam er in daß Land, ging wieder hinaus u. heurathete die nunmehrige Wittwe, mit der Er 1736 sich hier etablirte. In ihrer Ehe haben sie 9 Kinder gehabt; 6 Söhne u. 3 Töchter; von welchen 3 Söhne u. die 3 Töchter noch hienieden sind, Marie Margreth u. Catharina in Bethlehem. Durch die Predigt des Br. Nybergs wurde er erweckt u. hielt sich zu Ihm; nachdem der aber weg ging, währte es noch lange, biß er sich mit der Bruder-Gemeine recht einließ; da er denn in Jahr 1755, den 30 Merz aufgenommen u. in demselben Jahr am 15 Jun. zur h. Com. gelangte. Er war hier herum geehrt u. geliebt: denn er dienete jeder mann mit Rath u. That, wo er nur konte.

Er war ein sehr verständiger Mann u. wurde vielmals als Arbitrator u. dergleichen Affairen gebraucht. In den leztern 2 Jahren sagte er sich aus allen Geschäften heraus; zog von seiner Plantge herein in die Stadt (Lancaster) u. konte also die Ihm von Gott zugeschickte Krankheit (die Gichter) abwarten u. in übrigen eines ungestörten Sabbaths genießen. Im Aug. 62 krigte er auf einer Reise den ersten Anfall von den Gichtern; im Febr. 63 hatte er einen heftigen Paroxysmum, desgleichen nachher noch etliche mal, da Ihm Sinnen u. Sprache verging, u. man nicht anders vermuthete, als daß er heimgehen würde. Er hat auch letzten Sommer in Bethl. sehr krank gelegen. Indeßen erholte Er sich von Zeit zu Zeit wieder; sahe aber seiner Vol-

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<sup>1</sup> no such word, but I have no idea what it should be — surprise, shocked, saddened?

<sup>2</sup> possibly draußen miscopied.

lendung immer entgegen u. sagte zum öftern zu den Geschwistern, die mit Ihm redeten: Herr, wie du wilt, so schicks mit mir im leben u. im sterben nach dem alten luth. Liede. Er bestellte sein Haus u. bekümmerte sich ums äußere gar nicht mehr, war herzlich u. kindlich, daß wir uns seiner freuen konten. Er wolte vor Winters Bethl. u. seine 2 Töchter daselbst noch einmal besuchen; machte sich also am verwichenen Mittwoch nebst seiner Frau, Schw. Rasmeyer u. Witwe Cath. Dehofin[?] (sein Sohn Sebastian war Fuhrman) auf den Weg; kam aber nur bis Reading, wo er zwar des Abends noch mit beym Eßen war, sich aber nachher legte u. in seinen gewöhnlichen Schlaf fiel, jedoch ohne Gichter, u. schon am [symbol for Thursday] den 6 Oct. Abends um 6 Uhr, ganz sanft verschied. Sein Sterben hat gewährt 52 Jahr u. meist 9 M. Seine Gebeine wurden (wie gesagt) nach Lanc. gebracht u. (heute) den 8ten Oct. bey einem sehr große Gefolge auf unserm Gottes-Acker begraben. [symbol for Sunday] d. 9ten

1763, Saturday, the 8th of October

This morning we were ...[?]<sup>1</sup> because Brother Seb. Graf, who had passed away Thursday evening in Reading, was brought here dead in his coffin. Since his body was already expired, arrangements to bury him were made immediately. I reported this event to Lititz, from whence came Brothers Haller and Horn, Joh. Klein, and Jacob Meyer and attended the burial, which took place at 3 o'clock in the afternoon in our churchyard and drew a large crowd, with Br. Rasmeyer reading the liturgy and with a subsequent sermon in the church to a large auditorium seating several hundred people. There was not room for everyone, and some had to remain outside; others went home. My text was I Thessalonians 4:13. The listeners were very attentive. I read a brief account of his life:

Our departed brother, Sebastian Graf, was born in Offenheim in the Anspach area on 7 January 1711 and was raised in the Lutheran faith. In 1730, he came into the country, went out again, and married his now-widowed wife, with whom he settled here in 1736. Their marriage produced 9 children, 6 sons and 3 daughters, of whom 3 sons and the 3 daughters are still living, Marie Margreth and Catharina in Bethlehem. Through the preaching of Brother Nyberg, he was spiritually awakened and stuck with him; but after he [Nyberg] went away, it was a long while before the departed formally joined the Brethren Church, where he was accepted on 30 March 1755 and admitted to Holy Communion on the 15th of June in the same year. He was respected and loved throughout this area, for he served every man with word and deed wherever he could.

He was a very intelligent man and was often called upon as arbitrator or to assist in similar matters. In the last 2 years, he withdrew from all business affairs, left his farm and moved into the city (Lancaster) and thus could await the illness that God sent him (gout) and otherwise enjoy an undisturbed Sabbath. In August '62, during a trip, he suffered the first attack of gout; in February '63 he had a violent paroxysm, and later the same several more times, so that his mental faculties and speech were lost, and one could expect nothing other than that he would die. He was also very sick last summer in Bethlehem. Though he rallied somewhat from time to time, he always looked ahead to his completion<sup>2</sup> and often said to the sisters who spoke with him: "Lord, deal with me as Thou wilt, in living and in dying"<sup>3</sup> as in the old Lutheran hymn. He put his house in order and was no longer concerned with external things; he was affectionate and childlike, and we could be happy for him. Before winter he wanted to visit Bethlehem and his two daughters one more time; so this past Wednesday he, along with his wife, Sister Rasmeyer and widow Cath. Dehofin[?]<sup>4</sup> (his son Sebastian was driver), set out. But they got only as far as Reading, where he still was present at the evening meal but afterwards lay down and fell into his usual sleep, but without gout, and on Thursday, the 6th of October, at 6 o'clock in the evening, departed this life peacefully. His age at death was 52 years and almost 9 months. His remains were, as I said, brought to Lancaster and buried today, the 8th of October, in our churchyard in the presence of a large following. Sunday, October 9th.

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<sup>1</sup> I don't recognize the German word but likely means something like saddened

<sup>2</sup> or "perfection" —euphemism for death common among the Moravians

<sup>3</sup> The German quotes the first line of the hymn.

<sup>4</sup> I found the family name DeHoff in Lancaster. The *-in* is a feminine suffix.